last hearing of BIFR on National Instruments Limited (NIL) was held on 13.8.97. As per directions of BIFR Management of NIL prepared a comprehensive Rehabilitation Proposal for consideration of Administrative Ministry and Operating Agency (OA). A meeting was convened by OA on 9.9.98 to consider the Rehabilitation Proposal of NIL and evolve an agreed package with all concerned parties. Based on discussions and the response from the concerned parties, OA submitted its Rehabilitation Scheme to BIFR on 30.10.98. BIFR has to consider the same.

Bharat Ophthalmic Glass Ltd. (BOGL): The last hearing of BIFR was held on 17.10.97 in which BIFR decided to allow one month's time to the company as well as the workers' union to prepare a comprehensive scheme and convince the Government of India as well as OA regarding revivability of the company. BOGL submitted a revival scheme to Department of Heavy Industry (DHI) on 19.11.97. Discussions were held on 2.12.97 in DHI with the representatives of OA and BOGL. After examination, it was concluded that the revival plan submitted by BOGL in pursuance of the directions of BIFR would not ensure sustained viability of the company. The views of the Government have been communicated to the BIFR. BIFR is yet to take a final view.

Patents Bill

2358. SHRI S.M. KRISHNA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Finance Minister in his statement during his recent visit to France has stated that India will decide on its approach to the patent issue within next two weeks;

(b) whether the inter-Ministerial Group for the purpose has submitted its report;

(c) if so, the salient findings of the Group; and

(d) whether the Finance Ministry has persuaded the Commerce Ministry to pass the amended Patents Bill during the current Session of Parliament?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT): (a) to (d) A Bill, namely, the Patents (Amendment) Bill, 1998 has been introduced in Parliament (Rajya Sabha) on 16 December, 1998.

खादी और ग्रामोद्योग आयोग में रोजगार की संभाव्यता

2359. **श्री बलवन्त सिंह रामूवालिया:** क्या उद्योग मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि खादी और ग्रामोद्योग आयोग का वार्षिक बजट 600 करोड़ रुपये होने का अनुमान है;

(ख) यदि नहीं, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है;

(ग) क्या यह भी सच है कि इस धनराशि के निवेश के उपरांत केवल 60 लाख लोगों को ही रोजगार उपलब्ध हुआ है;

(घ) यदि नहीं, तो इस संबंध में तत्व क्या हैं और क्या सरकार ने रोजगार के अधिक अवसर पैदा करने की संभावनाओं का पता लगाया है; और

(ङ) यदि हां, तो वह संभावनाएं क्या हैं और सरकार द्वारा उन संभावनाओं के वास्तविक कार्यान्वयन के क्या कदम उठाए गए हैं?

उद्योग मंत्री (श्री सिकन्दर बख्त): (क) जी, हां। वर्ष 1998-99 के लिए खादी और ग्रामोद्योग आयोग का वार्षिक बजट प्रावधान 683.14 करोड़ रुपये है।

(ख) उपर्युक्त भाग (क) के उत्तर मद्देनजर प्रश्न ही नहीं उठता है।

(ग) खादी और ग्रामोद्योग आयोग ने खादी और ग्रामोद्योग क्षेत्र में वर्ष 1997-98 तक 60.15 लाख रोजगारों का सृजन किया है।

(घ) और (ङ) उपर्युक्त भाग (ग) के उत्तर के मद्देनजर प्रश्न ही नहीं उठता है।